

through the ranks to be appointed as director of the Illinois State Police.

In 2002, he assumed the role of chief of the U.S. Capitol Police. It was just a few, short years later, when the Senate was attacked with ricin poison, that Terry Gainer's calm disposition, professionalism, and experience guided the Senate through a malicious act of terrorism.

Chief Gainer then carried over this experience as he took on his new role as the 38th U.S. Senate Sergeant At Arms. Frequently described as a jack-of-all-trades, he fit right in. From overseeing security, to escorting foreign dignitaries, and leading the largest administrative office in the Senate, Terry Gainer was a valued leader and a trusted presence within the Senate family.

As he returns to the private sector, Marcelle and I offer Terry, his wife Irene, and the Gainer family our thanks and all best wishes in the years ahead.

#### WASHINGTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to call the Senate's attention to the work of the Washington Electric Cooperative, which provides power and electricity to thousands of Vermonters, including to Marcelle and me at our home in Middlesex. This year the co-op, as it is better known to Vermonters, celebrates its 75th anniversary. The co-op formed in the midst of the rural electrification movement of the 1930s. On December 2, 1939, my predecessor in the Senate, then-Vermont Governor George Aiken, flipped the switch that brought electricity to 150 farms. I doubt that anyone could have imagined back then that the co-op would grow to serve the 11,000 members it serves today, covering about 2800 square miles in parts of 41 towns in north-central Vermont.

The Washington Electric Co-Op has indeed grown, from the setting of the first poles on the McKnight Farm in East Montpelier, to operating 1200 miles of distribution lines with eight substations today. I am proud of the Washington Electric Co-Op, both as a customer and as a Vermonter.

In honor of this important occasion, I ask that the article "How the Washington Electric Co-op Began" from the 1964 Washington Electric Co-op annual meeting be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HOW THE WASHINGTON ELECTRIC CO-OP BEGAN  
(REMINISCENCE BY A CO-OP MEMBER PRINTED IN  
THE 1964 WEC ANNUAL REPORT)

One July day Harmon Kelly called on Lorie and Elizabeth Tarshis to suggest their writing to Washington to ask about rural electricity. Raymond Ebbett and Lyle Young met with them. They decided to try to form an REA Co-op. Meetings followed in people's living rooms. On July 14th the first public meeting, conducted by Harmon Kelly, was

held in the Grange Hall, Maple Corner. It had been hard to get people to come. Meetings had been held before about getting Green Mountain Power and had always ended in disappointment. As Mr. Kelly talked, people became optimistic and began to suggest sources of water power. We even considered the radical idea of a diesel engine. Several strangers sat listening in the dark shadows at the back of the lamp lit hall. One made a long rambling speech against socialistic schemes ending: "And you'll have to admit I told you."

We found out who our visitors were when they went to the owners of the best farms and promised them Green Mountain Power within three weeks if they would "give up this nonsense." Harmon Kelly was told to give it up or lose his job. Neither bribes nor threats worked. On July 29th the REA Co-op was formed with Harmon Kelly, Lyle Young, and Elizabeth Kent Tarshis as incorporators.

My diary for October 7th 1939 reads: "Autumn color splendid. Electricity booming. Stakes set to mark where poles will be." On October 12th, the first pole was set on the McKnight farm in East Montpelier. I remember it, well braced, standing black against a cold sky with bright leaves whirling in the wind and a man from Washington saying: "You folks don't know what you've started. I wouldn't be surprised if you had a thousand members some day." The first hundred looked at each other in disbelief. No one imagined there would be more than three thousand in 1964.

On a May night in 1940, for the first time since the power was turned on, I drove along the County Road. In houses, dark last year or with lamps dimly burning, every window was a blaze of light. There was music everywhere—cows listening to records, housewives to radios. I stopped, found one friend happily running a new vacuum cleaner over an already immaculate rug. I hurried on to my own dark house and turned on every one of our new 100 watt bulbs. The miracle had come.

#### BUDGET COMMITTEE SUBMISSIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 passed in December not only provided relief to families and the economy from the harmful effects of sequestration but also put an end to the recent fiscal crises and uncertainty by establishing a bipartisan congressional budget for 2 years. Specifically, the act authorizes the chairmen of the Senate and House Budget Committees to file allocations, aggregates, levels, and other enforcement mechanisms in the Senate and the House for budget years 2014 and 2015.

On January 15, I filed the first of the two budgets in the Senate for fiscal year 2014. Today, pursuant to section 116 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, I am filing the budget in the Senate for fiscal year 2015. Specifically, for the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, section 116 directs the chairman of the Budget Committee to file: allocations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for the Committee on Appropriations; allocations for fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2015 through 2019, and 2015 through 2024 for committees other than the Committee on Appropriations; aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2014 and 2015; aggregate rev-

enue levels for fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2015 through 2019, and 2015 through 2024; and aggregate levels of outlays and revenue for fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2015 through 2019, and 2015 through 2024 for Social Security. That authority to file allocations, aggregates, levels, and other enforcement tools exists from April 15 through May 15.

In the case of the Committee on Appropriations for 2014 and 2015, the allocation shall be set consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in the Bipartisan Budget Act, which imposes limits only on the amount of budget authority and divides those limits on budget authority between the revised security category and the revised nonsecurity category.

In the case of allocations for committees other than the Committee on Appropriations and for the revenue and Social Security aggregates, the levels shall be set consistent with the most recent baseline of the Congressional Budget Office. The CBO last updated its baseline on April 14, 2014.

In the case of the spending aggregates for 2014 and 2015, the levels shall be set in accordance with the allocation for the Committee on Appropriations and the allocations for committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, as described previously.

Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocations to the Committee on Appropriations and the spending aggregates can be revised for certain adjustments specifically authorized by section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. The authorized changes include adjustments for overseas contingency operations and the global war on terrorism, disaster funding, emergency appropriations, and program integrity initiatives in the areas of continuing disability reviews and redeterminations and health care fraud and abuse control. These adjustments will be made after the reporting of a bill or joint resolution or the offering of an amendment thereto or the submission of a conference report thereon that includes language that qualifies for one or more of the authorized adjustments.

In addition, section 116(c) of the Bipartisan Budget Act authorizes the filing for fiscal year 2015 of deficit-neutral reserve funds included in sections 114(c) and (d) of the act, updated by 1 year to match the new enforcement windows. Accordingly, I am hereby filing and updating by 1 year each of the reserve funds included in sections 114(c) and (d) of the Bipartisan Budget Act. The reserve funds are updated to cover the period of the total of fiscal years 2014 through 2024 in the case of the reserve fund authorized in section 114(c) and the period of the total of fiscal years 2014 through 2019 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2014 through 2024 in the case of the reserve funds authorized in section 114(d). In the case of section 114(d), the reserve funds filed and updated here include sections 302,

303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 338, 339, 340, 341, 344, 348, 349, 350, 353, 354, 356, 361, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 371, 376, 378, 379, and 383 of S. Con. Res. 8 (113th Congress), as passed by the Senate.

Section 114(a) directs the chairman of the Budget Committee also to reset the Senate pay-as-you-go scorecard to zero for all fiscal years. Pursuant to section 114(a), I am notifying the Senate and including the revised scorecard as part of the submission on revised enforcement for budget year 2015.

Finally, section 112 of the Bipartisan Budget Act establishes a point of order in the Senate against appropriations bills that provide advance appropriations. That act includes limited exceptions to this prohibition including up

to \$28.852 billion in advance appropriations for programs, projects, activities, or accounts included in a statement submitted by the chairman of the Budget Committee in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Pursuant to section 112, the list of allowable advance appropriations subject to the limit is as follows:

Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations—

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education: Employment and Training Administration, Job Corps, Education for the Disadvantaged, School Improvement, Special Education, Career, Technical, and Adult Education.

Financial Services and General Government: Payment to Postal Service.

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development: Tenant-based Rental As-

sistance and Project-based Rental Assistance.

Mr. President, my counterpart, the chairman of the House Budget Committee, Congressman RYAN, similarly has filed allocations, aggregates, and levels in the House. The two filings will allow the House and the Senate to extend budget enforcement measures for 2015, an important principle of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.

I ask unanimous consent that the following tables detailing enforcement in the Senate for budget year 2015, including new committee allocations, budgetary and Social Security aggregates, detail on discretionary spending limits, and the Senate pay-as-you-go scorecard, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### BUDGETARY AGGREGATES, PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 311 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	\$s in millions	2014	2015	2015–19	2015–24
Spending:					
Budget Authority .....		2,842,558	2,939,993	n/a	n/a
Outlays .....		2,819,514	3,004,163	n/a	n/a
Revenue .....		2,288,175	2,533,388	13,882,333	31,202,135

n/a = Not applicable. Appropriations for fiscal years 2016–2024 will be determined by future sessions of Congress and enforced through future Congressional budget resolutions.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY LEVELS—PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 311 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	\$s in millions	2014	2015	2015–19	2015–24
Outlays .....		698,267	736,572	4,174,029	9,952,032
Revenue .....		743,395	771,692	4,209,544	9,372,018

#### ADJUSTMENTS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	In millions of dollars	Allocation/limit*	Adjustments	Adjusted allocation/limit
Fiscal Year 2014:				
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority** .....		605,882	0	605,882
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority** .....		504,843	0	504,843
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays .....		1,201,186	0	1,201,186
Memorandum: Total Discretionary Budget Authority .....		1,110,725	0	1,110,725

\* The allocation to the Committee on Appropriations shown above incorporates adjustments to the discretionary spending limits made pursuant to section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 for overseas contingency operations, program integrity initiatives, and disaster relief. For more information on these adjustments, see pp. S361–S363 of the Congressional Record (January 15, 2014).

\*\* The amount allocated to the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2014 reflects CBO's estimate of P.L. 113–76, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. An adjustment has been made to "unassigned to committee" to offset the difference between the Congressional Budget Office's April 2014 estimate of discretionary spending and the Congressional Budget Office's estimate of P.L. 113–76. For enforcement purposes, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations is considered to be at current level for fiscal year 2014.

#### ADJUSTMENTS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	In millions of dollars	Initial allocation/limit	Adjustments*	Adjusted Allocation/limit
Fiscal Year 2015:				
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....		521,272	0	521,272
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....		492,356	0	492,356
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays .....		1,160,500	0	1,160,500
Memorandum: Total Discretionary Budget Authority .....		1,013,628	0	1,013,628

\* Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT BUDGET YEAR 2014

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Appropriations:				
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority* .....	605,882	n/a	.....	.....
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority* .....	504,843	n/a	.....	.....
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays .....	n/a	1,201,186	.....	.....
Memo: on-budget .....	1,105,600	1,195,796	.....	.....
off-budget .....	5,125	5,390	.....	.....
Mandatory .....	849,184	836,182	.....	.....
Total .....	1,959,909	2,037,368	.....	.....
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry .....	14,053	14,161	119,970	107,456
Armed Services .....	145,908	146,180	100	95
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs .....	12,324	–9,548	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation .....	26,710	21,759	1,460	1,570

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT BUDGET YEAR 2014—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Energy and Natural Resources .....	1,908	4,722	62	65
Environment and Public Works .....	41,959	2,290	0	0
Finance .....	1,292,745	1,285,443	618,414	618,200
Foreign Relations .....	27,890	27,855	159	159
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs .....	106,887	103,825	20,498	20,498
Judiciary .....	11,429	9,963	817	787
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions .....	3,356	11,515	4,004	3,895
Rules and Administration .....	38	8	24	24
Intelligence .....	0	0	514	514
Veterans' Affairs .....	3,114	3,315	83,058	82,815
Indian Affairs .....	827	1,087	0	0
Small Business .....	— 780	— 780	0	0
Unassigned to Committee* .....	— 800,594	— 834,259	104	104
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2,847,683</b>	<b>2,824,904</b>	<b>849,184</b>	<b>836,182</b>

\* The amount allocated to the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2014 reflects CBO's estimate of P.L. 113–76, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. An adjustment has been made to "Unassigned to Committee" to offset the difference between the Congressional Budget Office's April 2014 estimate of discretionary spending and the Congressional Budget Office's estimate of P.L. 113–76. For enforcement purposes, the allocation to each Committee is considered to be at current level for fiscal year 2014.

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT BUDGET YEAR 2015

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Appropriations:				
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority * .....	521,272	n/a	.....	.....
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority * .....	492,356	n/a	.....	.....
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays * .....	n/a	1,160,500	.....	.....
Memo: on-budget .....	1,008,146	1,155,120	.....	.....
off-budget .....	5,482	5,380	.....	.....
Mandatory .....	873,284	864,401	.....	.....
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,886,912</b>	<b>2,024,901</b>		
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry .....	8,018	8,190	114,937	107,310
Armed Services .....	150,600	150,412	107	104
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs .....	24,537	5,071	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation .....	15,506	11,140	1,576	1,580
Energy and Natural Resources .....	4,548	5,413	62	62
Environment and Public Works .....	42,894	3,258	0	0
Finance .....	1,387,460	1,376,610	643,216	642,308
Foreign Relations .....	27,208	26,621	159	159
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs .....	109,890	107,189	20,839	20,839
Judiciary .....	20,582	12,269	846	837
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions .....	2,180	6,074	4,075	4,038
Rules and Administration .....	40	8	25	25
Intelligence .....	0	0	514	514
Veterans' Affairs .....	1,018	1,262	86,821	86,519
Indian Affairs .....	732	1,207	0	0
Small Business .....	0	0	0	0
Unassigned to Committee .....	— 736,650	— 730,082	107	106
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2,945,475</b>	<b>3,009,543</b>	<b>873,284</b>	<b>864,401</b>

\* Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT 5-YEAR: 2015–2019

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry .....	58,115	57,023	587,774	532,574
Armed Services .....	805,266	804,736	526	516
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs .....	114,495	— 4,264	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation .....	82,886	59,979	8,784	8,742
Energy and Natural Resources .....	23,650	25,444	310	310
Environment and Public Works .....	213,617	15,993	0	0
Finance .....	8,300,957	8,290,424	3,711,730	3,709,606
Foreign Relations .....	126,459	123,509	795	795
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs .....	593,877	580,572	109,735	109,735
Judiciary .....	67,285	71,752	4,503	4,486
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions .....	16,997	32,485	22,398	22,084
Rules and Administration .....	195	50	136	136
Intelligence .....	0	0	2,570	2,570
Veterans' Affairs .....	4,334	5,205	468,914	467,444
Indian Affairs .....	3,173	5,078	0	0
Small Business .....	0	0	0	0

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT 10-YEAR: 2015–2024

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry .....	111,731	109,661	1,188,348	1,079,673
Armed Services .....	1,756,596	1,754,927	1,050	1,030
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs .....	206,853	— 56,229	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation .....	168,434	119,655	20,047	19,932

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT 10-YEAR: 2015–2024—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Energy and Natural Resources .....	49,697	52,232	620	620
Environment and Public Works .....	422,694	33,513	0	0
Finance .....	20,308,332	20,297,926	8,772,526	8,769,114
Foreign Relations .....	235,490	231,546	1,590	1,590
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs .....	1,292,529	1,262,703	237,985	237,985
Judiciary .....	122,841	127,325	9,717	9,685
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions .....	45,975	64,666	48,100	47,402
Rules and Administration .....	361	104	304	304
Intelligence .....	0	0	5,140	5,140
Veterans' Affairs .....	6,700	8,463	1,003,084	1,000,104
Indian Affairs .....	7,098	8,957	0	0
Small Business .....	0	0	0	0

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 114(a)(2) OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013

\$s in millions	Balances
Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019 .....	0
Fiscal Years 2015 through 2024 .....	0

GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, listening to your doctor is just common sense. That is why it is important for Congress to take note that this April, the American College of Physicians, ACP, our Nation's largest medical-specialty organization and second largest physician group, released an important diagnosis: that our Nation is trapped in an epidemic of gun violence. Fortunately, it also includes a treatment: a set of policy positions and recommendations to reduce gun violence in our country.

The ACP report begins with recognition that “firearm violence is not only a criminal justice issue but also a public health threat.” The statistics are undeniable: Guns kill over 32,000 individuals in our Nation every year—about 88 lives stolen, every day. But those are only the fatal shootings; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have estimated that more than 73,000 nonfatal firearm injuries occur in the United States every year. And what is a “nonfatal” injury? Anything from a bullet grazing someone's shoulder, to a domestic abuser taking aim at a spouse's heart and striking the arm, to a child accidentally shooting him or herself in the stomach and barely surviving. “Nonfatal” gun injuries may evade the first sad statistic, but they can be devastating all the same. These statistics also belie the collateral damage the families, friends and communities shattered by a pull of the trigger.

The ACP report surveyed the highly trained and clinically minded internists whom we entrust with our health and well-being, along with that of our families, children and communities. Direct experience with the problem was widespread, with 63 percent of surveyed internists reporting having had patients who were injured or given fatal wounds by a gun. Other results showed overwhelming consensus: that 85 percent of surveyed internists believe firearm injuries are a public health issue;

95 percent support mandatory background checks on all firearm purchases; 86 percent support a ban on military-style assault weapons; 85 percent support a ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines; and 86 percent support the creation of requirements that all firearms include child-proof safety features. 76 percent of respondents agreed that gun safety legislation would “help to reduce the risk for gun related injuries or deaths.”

Responding to this consensus, the ACP report includes several recommendations to reduce gun violence in our society. It argues that all gun sales should be “subject to satisfactory completion of a criminal background check,” and supports enactment of “a universal background check system to keep guns out of the hands” of dangerous individuals. Fortunately, there is legislation pending in this Congress that would do just that.

It also supports the “enactment of legislation to ban the sale and manufacture for civilian use of firearms that have features designed to increase their rapid killing capacity (often called assault weapons.)” Legislation pending in this Congress would also accomplish that goal.

In addition, the report argues for “strong penalties and criminal prosecution for those who sell firearms illegally and those who legally purchase firearms for those who are banned from possession of them”—so called “straw” purchases. And yes, there is legislation pending in this Congress to do that too.

Mr. President, our Nation's medical community agrees with our law enforcement community, and the 90 percent of Americans who support sensible gun safety reforms. I urge my colleagues to listen to these important voices and to pass the commonsense pieces of legislation already pending before this body. The cost of inaction is just too high.

DATA ACT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to commend my colleagues in the Senate and House for coming together last month to pass the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, which is known as the DATA Act. The measure enjoyed near unanimous support in both bodies, and I expect President Obama to sign the DATA Act into law shortly.

This legislation seeks to ensure that Federal agencies have a framework in place to standardize their financial data, and will better ensure that expenditure data for all of our agencies is accessible to taxpayers and Congress. This will represent an important step toward a more transparent and responsive government.

Passage of the DATA Act, though, is merely the first step towards improving transparency into how the Federal Government spends taxpayer dollars. Now comes the hard part—implementation. I know that Federal agencies and the Office of Management and Budget will face challenges in implementing the bill. To that effect, I have received a letter from Beth Cobert, the Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget, expressing concern about implementing the bill without additional resources.

As with any legislation, our job does not end when the President signs the bill. I believe that those of us here in Congress have the responsibility to work with the administration to ensure that laws—such as the DATA Act—that we enact have the support they need to be implemented. That is why I will work with my colleagues on the Appropriations committees to help make sure Federal agencies have the resources they need to meet the requirements of the bill. I invite my colleagues who worked so hard to pass this legislation to join me in this continuing effort.

With that being said, I ask unanimous consent that Ms. Cobert's letter be printed in the RECORD in its entirety.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,

Washington, DC., May 1, 2014.

Hon. THOMAS R. CARPER,  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CARPER: The Administration recognizes and appreciates your commitment to Government transparency and accountability, and appreciates the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs' leadership on these issues.

The Administration supports the objectives of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) which would establish Government-wide data